

**State Tribal Economic Development Commission**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**June 19, 2013**

**MEMBERS PRESENT BY PHONE or WEBINAR:** Richard Sangrey-STEDC Vice Chairman (Chippewa Cree Tribe), Terry Pitts (Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes); Gerald Gray (Little Shell Tribe), Mike Fox (Fort Belknap Indian Community), Cheryl Reevis (Blackfeet Tribe)

**MEMBERS PRESENT (IN PERSON)** Jason Smith (Office of Indian Affairs), Andy Poole (Montana Department of Commerce)

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Representative Lea Whitford (HD 16)

**STAFF PRESENT:** Ty Jones, Heather Sobrepena-George

**1. 12:00pm Welcome/Purpose of Gathering** Commence at 12:08. Vice Chairman Richard Sangrey; Prayer Mike Fox

Quorum established: 7 voting members.

**2. Discussion and Executive Action on Montana Indian Language Preservation Pilot Program Guidelines** (Section II. Contracting and Review Process and Section III. Reporting):

*Motion made by Andy Poole to accept Section II and III as presented in the agenda for the Montana Indian Language Preservation Pilot Program. Seconded by Mike Fox. All in favor. Motion passes unanimously. The language is as follows:*

## **II. CONTRACTING AND PROJECT PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS**

### **A. Project Proposal Review**

The project proposal(s) shall be reviewed by the local program advisory board to determine if the proposal(s) meet the specific outcome requirements of their respective language preservation program.

### **B. Local Program Advisory Board Approval**

Once approved by the local program advisory board, the tribal government can further distribute funds via sub-recipient agreement(s) for language preservation projects according to the eligible uses of funds.

### **C. Incorporation of Application by Reference into Contract**

Approved applications to the local program advisory board will be incorporated into the contract between the tribal government and the State Tribal Economic Development Commission (Section I (B)).

## **III. REPORTING**

### **A. Reporting to the State-Tribal Relations Committee**

Reports shall be required to be submitted to the state-tribal relations committee at each meeting during the interim.

### **B. Report Content**

Local program advisory boards to submit written reports on:

- (1) Expenditures (including any unused funds) and
- (2) overall program progress in relation to measureable and specific outcome requirements contained in the contract,

All State Tribal Economic Development meetings are conducted using Roberts Rules of Order. Only members can present motions.

The Chair will call for public comment following board discussion.

If auxiliary aids and services or special accommodations are required, please contact STEDC staff at 841-2821

**State Tribal Economic Development Commission**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**June 19, 2013**

**C. Copy of Each Report to the State Tribal Economic Development Commission**

A copy of each report provided to the State-Tribal Economic Development Commission for the purposes of determining payment disbursement.

**3. Discussion of remaining STEDC Funds-** Heather informed the group that the State Tribal Economic Development Commission has approximately \$36,000 in vacancy savings remaining in the commission's personal services budget that will revert to the general fund if not utilized by the commission. The position has remained vacant since Jason Smith was appointed the Director of Indian Affairs. A request to fill vacancy announcement for the position is being advertised until filled. Because the end of the fiscal year is approaching at the end of June, the commission does not have much time to utilize the funds.

Heather presented the idea that an expeditious way to utilize the funds would be to amend an Indian Country Economic Development contract to include the remaining commission vacancy savings funds to be deposited into the commission's special revenue account for an equal contribution of \$4,500 for each tribal government to the 2017 State Tribal Economic Development Commission Indian Equity Fund (STEDC IEF). At maturity, each tribal government would then have \$9,000 from this contribution, as it is a \$1:\$1 match to State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) funds.

Commissioners expressed concern over one tribal government contracting for other tribal governments. Heather informed the group that a contract amendment is just a mechanism to be able to contract the funds so that funds can encumber to a contract rather than trying to spend the funds down in a short time or reverting to the general fund. The funds wouldn't transfer from the state to the tribal government; rather a transfer would occur from the commission's personal services budget line item into the commission's special revenue account.

The group discussed that each tribal government could individually contract for an equal portion of the \$4,500; however, the time constraints of the fiscal year end (technically June 30, but administratively June 28, 2013) would make it difficult for each tribal government to amend their ICED contracts by fiscal year end. The Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes, Crow, and the Little Shell Tribe have contributed matching funds into the 2017 STEDC Indian Equity Fund. This \$36,000 contribution would establish a contribution by all of the tribal governments. Heather reminded the commission that the 2017 STEDC Indian Equity Fund is an ongoing project of the commission and they will determine the parameters of the fund which can include technical assistance and counseling to small businesses rather than just grants as determined by the commission.

Mike Fox offered the Fort Belknap Indian Community to amend their ICED contract to accrue the funds to their contract which would be deposited into the special revenue account for the benefit of all of the tribal governments. Richard Sangrey accepted Mike Fox's offer yet questioned the absence of other tribal governments on the conference call.

*Jason Smith made a motion to allocate the remaining \$36,000 in personal service funds to the Fort Belknap Indian Community for the purpose of depositing the funds into the commission's special revenue account to be a \$4,500 contribution in matching funds for each tribal government. Seconded by Gerald Gray. Those in favor: Jason Smith, Richard Sangrey, Gerald Gray, Mike Fox, Terry Pitts, and Andy Poole (by proxy). Those opposed: Cheryl Reeves. Motion passes by majority vote.*

**State Tribal Economic Development Commission**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**June 19, 2013**

Representative Lea Whitford cautioned the commission that agencies are under legislative scrutiny for “banking” general funds for future use and this scenario is an example of why the Indian Country Economic Development program needs to have the one-time-only designation removed because the program is always in jeopardy of being cut and there would be no funds to continue economic development efforts such as the Montana Indian Equity Fund. Heather recognized Representative Whitford’s caution and reminded the group that the 2017 STEDC Indian Equity Fund has been established as a project of the commission prior to the availability of these funds. Because of the language in the STED Commission’s statute at Montana Code Annotated 90-1-135, the commission has an ability to receive and utilize funds for commission projects and priorities. When the commission had excess funds at the end of the previous fiscal year, commission members expressed concern over the reverted funds without the opportunity to utilize the funds for tribal economic development purposes.

**CLOSE/ADJOURN** *Motion to adjourn made by Jason Smith at 1:06pm. Seconded by Mike Fox. All in favor. Unanimous approval*